AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

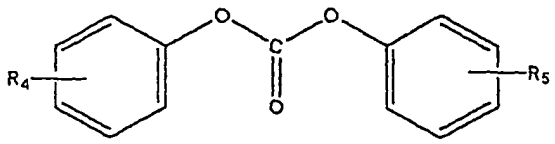
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for producing a liquid crystalline polyester comprising melt-polymerizing aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid represented by the formula (I), aromatic diol represented by the formula (II), and aromatic dicarboxylic acid represented by the formula (III) with ~~using~~ a diaryl carbonate represented by the formula (IV):[[.]]

$HO\text{-}R_1\text{-}COOH$ (I)

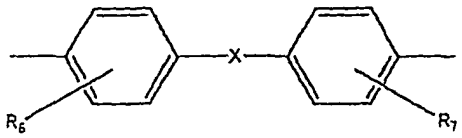
$HO\text{-}R_2\text{-}OH$ (II)

$HOOC\text{-}R_3\text{-}COOH$ (III)



(IV)

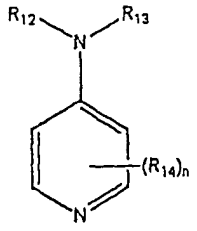
[[(]]wherein, R_1 and R_3 are an optionally substituted arylene group, R_2 is an optionally substituted arylene group or a group represented by the formula (V),



(V)

wherein R_4 to R_7 are each independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an acyloxy group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, or an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, and X is –O–, –S–, $–SO_2–$, –CO–, $–C_6H_{10}–$, or an alkylene group, and

wherein the melt-polymerization is carried out in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 1-methylimidazole, 2-methylimidazole, and a pyridine compound represented by the formula (VII):



(VII)

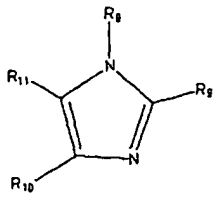
wherein R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, a cycloalkyl group with a carbon number of from 5 to 10, an aryl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, or an aralkyl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, and R_{12} and R_{13} may be combined with each other, R_{14} is an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, a cycloalkyl group with a carbon number of from 5 to 10, an aryl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, or an aralkyl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, and n

is an integer of from 1 to 4, and

solid-polymerizing the liquid crystalline polyester produced by the melt-polymerizing.

[[)]]

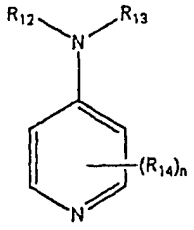
2. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein melt-polymerization is carried out in a presence of imidazole compound represented by the formula (VI):[[.]]



(VI)

[[(]]wherein, R_8 to R_{11} are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 4, a hydroxymethyl group, a cyano group, a cyanoalkyl group with a carbon number of from 2 to 5, a cyanoalkoxy group with a carbon number of from 2 to 5, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an aminoalkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 4, an aminoalkoxy group with a carbon number of from 1 to 4, a phenyl group, a benzyl group, a phenylpropyl group, or a formyl group.[[)]]

3. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the melt-polymerization is carried out in a presence of pyridine compound represented by the formula (VII):[[.]]



(VII)

[[(]]wherein R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, a cycloalkyl group with a carbon number of from 5 to 10, an aryl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, or an aralkyl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, and R_{12} and R_{13} may be combined with each other, R_{14} is an alkyl group with a carbon number of from 1 to 6, a cycloalkyl group with a carbon number of from 5 to 10, an aryl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, or an aralkyl group with a carbon number of from 6 to 12, and n is an integer of from 1 to 4.[[)]]

4. (canceled).

5. (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid (I) is from 30 to 80% by mole of a total 5 of the aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid (I), the aromatic diol (II) and the aromatic dicarboxylic acid (III), and a mol ratio of the aromatic diol (II) to the aromatic dicarboxylic acid (III) ((II)/(III)) is 90/100 to 100/90.

6. (original): Aliquid-crystalline polyester obtained by the method according to Claim 1.

7. (canceled).